

TRIBUTE TO THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHINATOWN

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 1995

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of Philadelphia's magnificent Chinatown.

In 1870, a small laundry was established on Race Street, between 9th and 10th. From that single, small business a bustling community grew. In 1995, the Chinese American community is proudly celebrating the 125th anniversary of Chinatown with events throughout the year. Chinatown has developed into one of the most significant contributors to the Social, economic, and cultural vitality of Philadelphia. Indeed, Chinatown is the city's premier marketplace for Chinese food and oriental products, but it is so much more. It is a meeting place for friends and relatives. It is a home and source of comfort for newly arrived immigrants. Chinatown is where traditional culture is preserved and ethnic identity perpetuated. The central event of Chinatown's 125th Anniversary will be a parade and dedication ceremony at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 25th. The starting and ending point of the parade and the location of the ceremony will be where Chinatown started—Race Street between 9th and 10th. Other celebration events include an art exhibit by Asian American artists; a benefit recital; and an "Honor The Elders Day."

Chinatown's rich, historical roots and ethnic diversity have contributed greatly to the City of Brotherly Love. I am proud of the contributions of the Philadelphia Chinatown and I congratulate Chinatown on its 125th Anniversary.

TENTH ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL OF PARIS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 1995

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring the attention of the House to an extremely special constituent in my district, Ms. Julie L. Harms. Ms. Harms, a student at Bellaire High School, has recently added another major accomplishment to an already impressive list. Ms. Harms has been selected to represent the United States as a member of the Jury Panel at the Tenth Annual Film Festival of Paris. The selection process, which is coordinated by the U.S. Information Agency, is a nationwide competition that picks only 2 candidates, one male and one female.

Young men and women from 15 countries will be taking part in the festival as jurors and judge various films from all over the world. While in Paris, the film jurors will meet with political and film industry leaders. The Tenth Annual Film Festival will also provide these outstanding men and women the opportunity to view many of the outstanding historical and cultural landmarks in Paris.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize this exceptional young woman and her distinguished colleagues for this wonderful accomplishment. Thank you.

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 1995

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, today, our country honors U.S. servicewomen at a groundbreaking ceremony for the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington Cemetery.

When this memorial is completed, it will contain the names of all U.S. servicewomen, past and present, along with a photo and biography. They will be women who served in peacetime and war, women who still serve this country as veterans and those who gave their lives.

The list will include Connecticut women like Wanda Charlinsky who is president of her local WAVES unit; Viola Bernstein, active in the Jewish War Veterans; Linda Schwartz, a member of the National Board of Vietnam Veterans of America, and Cindy Beaudoin who gave her life during the Persian Gulf war.

This memorial will be a reminder to the Nation that our liberty and freedom were secured with the efforts of more than 2 million women who dedicated themselves to our country and our ideals.

It is also a symbol of the respect of a grateful country.

SAFE MEDICATIONS ACT OF 1995

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 1995

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my colleagues Representatives PETE STARK and JOHN LEWIS to reintroduce the Safe Medications Act. This bill improves public health and safety by creating a clear and uniform reporting system for deaths that occur while prescribing, administering, or dispensing drugs. Needless tragedies would be avoided by its enactment.

Billions of prescriptions are written, dispensed, or administered in hospitals, pharmacies, and other health care facilities across the United States every year. Yet, if something goes wrong during drug therapy there is no requirement for facilities to report adverse incidents. As a result, the public could be vulnerable to recurring drug-related mishaps and fatalities that are preventable.

Occasionally, a health care professional misreads a prescription, administers the wrong dosage of a drug, or dispenses medication incorrectly. These errors will sometimes have little or no consequence. Other times, they may produce fatal results. When an individual dies in these cases, there is no place for the practitioner to report the death. Ultimately, the same mistake can be made a number of times. Repeated errors lead to unacceptable risks to patient safety and public health.

Let me sketch how patients and consumers are susceptible to multiple errors. A young boy in New York died when he was administered the wrong dosage of a sedative. A similar incident happened with the same drug to a 4-year-old girl in Texas. In another instance, a community pharmacist confused the names of

morphine and meperidine which resulted in the death of a child. A parallel event proved fatal when a physician confused the names of painkillers. Finally, confusion over like drug names led to a mistaken and ultimately fatal dosage of a medication for a bone-marrow-transplant patient. This drug was involved in a comparable case when, again the name of the drug was confused and the patient was overmedicated. These events show a pattern of drug therapy deaths that could have been avoided and prevented had they been monitored and had medical workers been made more aware of the potential for mistakes.

In October, 1993, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette published a series of articles that detailed medication errors. Reporter Steve Tweedt's series contained some disturbing statistics in this area. He reported that a Pittsburgh-Post Gazette study of 250 hospital pharmacists across the country estimated that there were 16,000 medication errors in their institutions in 1992; 106 of them caused patient deaths.

Presently, there are a variety of reporting systems. Only two States require reporting; New York has a mandatory program for hospitals and North Carolina has a required reporting system for pharmacies. However, nothing obliges these States to share the information they collect with other States.

Nationally, there are two primary voluntary reporting systems that track errors and deaths that result from drug therapy. The U.S. Pharmacopeia [USP], working with the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, has received over 1,100 reports since it was established in 1991. And, it is estimated that the voluntary system operated by the Food and Drug Administration [FDA], MedWatch, collects information on only 1 percent of the errors that occur. Since these reports are voluntary, however, it is unclear what the actual error and death rate is what their tracking represents.

At the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee hearing on this issue last September, David Work, the executive director of the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy, testified that "about 10,000 deaths occur nationwide from pharmaceuticals each year." Joshua Perper, M.D., chief medical examiner, Browder County, FL, cited in his testimony a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1991 that charted an annual mortality rate of 503 per 100,000 hospital discharges due to drug errors.

These trends can and must be changed. We must have a greater understanding of these incidents and take precautions to see that they are not repeated. The Safe Medications Act of 1995, which I am introducing today, provides a solution to this problem and would significantly improve the public health.

The Safe Medications Act creates a national data bank for information on deaths that result from the prescribing, dispensing, or administering of drugs. This data bank would be maintained by the USP for the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Within 10 working days after the discovery of a death due to the prescribing, dispensing, and administering of drugs, the health care facility in which the error occurred would be required to report the incident to the U.S. Pharmacopeia.

The Secretary will analyze these reports and work with USP and the appropriate health care provider associations so that they can

notify and alert their constituencies of potential problems.

The identity of the facilities that report deaths would remain confidential.

Finally, this bill would not supersede any voluntary reporting systems or State systems in place.

It is clear that a central reporting system is long overdue and needed. The medical community must develop a greater awareness and understanding of fatal drug reactions and must ensure that they are not repeated. The fundamental goals and benefits of the Safe Medications Act are indisputable. I urge my colleagues to support this important health care measure.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF FATHER CUNNINGHAM INTO THE PRIESTHOOD

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 1995

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Father William T. Cunningham into the priesthood, which he will observe this Sunday, June 25, at the Catholic Church of the Madonna, in Detroit, MI. Father Cunningham has served as pastor there since 1969.

Father Cunningham is a life-long Detroit resident and has committed his life to social and economic justice in Detroit. In 1968, following the Detroit riots, Father Cunningham founded Focus: HOPE, a civil and human rights organization with the goal of resolving the effects of discrimination and injustice and to build integration in our riot-torn community. Over the years, Focus: HOPE grew to develop the Food Prescription Program, which distributes USDA commodities to 52,000 low-income mothers and children each month, and developed the Food for Seniors Program, which provides a monthly food supplement to 34,000 elderly poor in the Detroit area.

Under Father Cunningham's leadership, Focus: HOPE expanded its scope in the 1980's to include manufacturing training. Today three manufacturing technology training programs function for minority youth and others. The latest, and most advanced, is the Center for Advanced Technologies which opened 2 years ago. This national demonstration project offers a 6-year curriculum which combines structured work experience with applied engineering study conducted by a consortium of Michigan universities. Graduates will be engineer/technicians; able to build, operate, maintain, repair, and modify advanced manufacturing equipment at world-competitive levels.

Father Cunningham has served on a number of public service boards including the State of Michigan's Task Force on Vandalism and Violence in the Schools, the State and city Task Forces on Hunger and Malnutrition, the State Holiday Commission for Martin Luther King Jr., the Citizens Commission to Improve Michigan Courts, and many others.

Father Cunningham's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. He has been honored with many notable awards including the NAACP's Ira W. Jayne Memorial Medal, the

Temple Israel Brotherhood Award, the Bishop Donnelly Alumni Award, the Jefferson Award, the UCS Executive of the Year Award, the Jessie Slaton Award of the Detroit Association of Black Organizations, the National Governor's Association Award, twice, the 1987 Detroit News Michiganian of the Year Award, the Salvation Army's William Booth Award, the Marquette University Alumni Award, and the University of Michigan 1993 Business Leadership Award and honorary membership in the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

Father Cunningham has dedicated his life to serving others. After 40 years in the priesthood and more than 26 at the helm of Focus: HOPE, Father Cunningham has touched the lives of thousands. In this day and age, with our city suffering from decades of neglect, it is important to recognize the accomplishments of those who have dedicated themselves to improving the lives of those less fortunate. So I hope that you will all join me in congratulating Father Cunningham for his years of hard work and perseverance. Detroit is a better place to live because of Father Cunningham's hard work and dedication to making Detroit healthier, stronger, friendlier and more prosperous. Father Cunningham is a true hero.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERISM FROM RIVERSIDE ROTARY CLUB

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 1995

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that makes America truly great is our spirit of volunteerism—the willingness of citizens from all backgrounds to give of their time and their efforts to make the community better in which they live and work. One organization that has been a shining example of this is the Riverside Rotary Club. During its 75-year history, members have worked to make Riverside a better place for all its residents.

In its recent history, Sherm Babcock was our Rotary Club president for the 1970–71 year. Sherm started out by going to the international convention in Atlanta, GA. He also led a large delegation of Rotarians to the district assembly the following month.

A significant administrative change took place with the new position of sergeant at arms. Frank Lindeburg, an entertaining character, was the fine master and made the change a success. To this day the position of sergeant at arms is a coveted position in our club.

Sports were a big transition in Rotary in Sherm's year. Some of the activities were: the club sponsored a team in the UCR baseball tournament; the club fielded a team in the service club bowling league; and a number of golf tournaments were conducted.

The scholarship fund that had been initiated the prior year by past president John Cote was enhanced considerably. Today, this scholarship fund exceeds \$170,000 and numerous academic scholarships are awarded each year to deserving high school students.

During the 1970's, Rotary was led by many prominent individuals. Jack Williams, president in 1971–72 led our club in constructing platforms for tents at the Boy Scout camp in Idylwild—was also instrumental in having our

club donate a wheelchair to the UCR Health Center.

Ralph Hill, President in 1972–73 kept up the good work from prior years and added to it by hosting the United Fund Kickoff luncheon. This was significant since many of our members were key contributors to the United Fund.

In 1973–74 Rotary was involved in many events. Irv Hall led the club this year. Some different things Rotary became involved in included sending scholarships to Cuautia, Mexico, which was a sister city of Riverside. Rotary also contributed to the Ralph Johnson Memorial at Twin Pines Ranch. The old YMCA building, known as the Gheel House, had its interior painted by Rotarians. The club also enjoyed itself through a trip to the *Queen Mary*.

In 1974–75 Jim Davidson, our president, continued work at Twin Pines Ranch through the club's donation for the ranch's swimming pool. We also celebrated a joint meeting with the Soroptimists, a women's organization dedicated to community service.

The Mission Inn had been closed for some time but in 1975–76, Herman Reed's year as president, we moved back to the Mission Inn. Apparently, it was a welcomed return since the club had been having problems with the different establishments in which it had been meeting.

During this 1975–76 year many service projects were accomplished. Rotary contributed carpeting and linoleum to the Riverside County Association for Crippled Children. We also contributed significantly to the Special Olympics. As usual, we celebrated our special meetings for our significant others as well as our continued sponsorship of the ROTC awards at Poly High School.

In 1976–77 Bill Williams was our president and he led the club in starting the ambitious project of repairing and remodeling the kitchen portion of the Carriage House which is located in the Heritage House property. This required many Rotarians to roll up their sleeves and do some worthwhile manual labor. The results, which were realized some years later, were outstanding and very much appreciated by the community.

Frank Lindeburg, our president for 1977–78 was active in continuing the Carriage House project. We also organized an auction which was tied into the party for a club fundraiser. Being the UCR athletic director, he organized a baseball game against the Riverside Kiwanians. He was also instrumental in designing a program for the fire department's emergency program. The club's budget seemed to be in good shape because Frank led the club to invest its surplus funds. And, of course, the food service at the Mission Inn came under some criticism. Some things never change.

In 1978–79, San Landis was club president and kept the club operating smoothly. The work at the Carriage House was still going on and the usual special meetings with our wives and others brought enjoyment to all.

Ron Drayson, our president in 1979–80, kept the Carriage House project going. He was also responsible for sponsoring the 4H contest which was held at the Agricultural Park. He redesigned club banners presented to visiting Rotarians and organized a Riverside-San Bernardino golf match at Arrowhead Country Club.

The new work project was undertaken under the presidency of Greg MacDonald in 1980—